

Some notes on differences between adult *Lampyris noctiluca* L. and larvae

Since adult *L. noctiluca* are often described as larviform in appearance, suggesting that the two are difficult to distinguish, a few points of difference are perhaps worth mentioning. Adult females are uniformly greyish-brown, with a thin, pale, slightly raised median line, unlike the larvae which are usually black with a white or brownish-yellow spot at the basal corner of each segment. The rounded thoracic shield of the female is similar to that of the male and very different in appearance from the flat, undifferentiated structure of the larva, whose body is more tubular. The leg structure is simpler in the larva. The antennae are relatively long (c. 2.5 mm.) in the adult male and female, short (c. 1 mm.) and peg-like in the larva. The mouthparts are typically extended beyond the thoracic shield in the larva, covered in the adult. There is a tinge of pink about the first few body segments and around the head (ventral surface) of the adult. Progress is strongly looping in the larva, more dragging in the adult female. The glowing area of the larva is confined to a pair of small dots on the last segment, whereas the adult female's (and male's) last three segments are uniformly and strongly luminescent on the ventral surface (whitish in appearance when not glowing).

THE SLOE PUG (*CHLOROCLYSTIS CHLOERATA* MABILLE) IN 1975. — After unsuccessfully attempting for two years at beating for the larva of this new British moth in the New Forest and Berkshire, I again tried the New Forest on 16th March. On this occasion after beating much sloe blossom, I obtained a small greenish-grey geometrid larva which later became lighter in colour as well as showing a very faint pinkish-brown dorsal line. This larva, and two others from Effingham, Surrey, that were more easily recognisable proved to be *chloerata*, as well as a very young grey wriggly creature from which the moth finally materialised on 19th April. I also beat four full-fed *chloerata* larvae from topmost branches of sloe at Maidenhead, Berkshire. Following a tip from Mr. Skinner I kept all beaten blossoms in a large tin from which in due course a further moth emerged.

On the fine warm night of 2nd July while collecting by the Kennet at Thatcham, I boxed a Pug from the flowers of Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), and anticipating *Eupithecia valerianata* Hb. was soon disappointed to see that it was far too large. However, since it appeared suspiciously like a worn specimen of one of my bred *chloerata*, I showed it to Mr. D. S. Fletcher who kindly confirmed it as that species. I would be interested to know if the imago of *chloerata* has been taken on any other occasion apart from at m.v. light? — MICHAEL BRITTON, 27 Patricia Close, Slough, SL1 5HT, Berks.